

**REMARKS**

In the present Amendment, claims 19 and 20 are added. New claim 19 recites an agent for skin external use, comprising a salt of higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester wherein the higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester is represented by the formula (1). In formula (1), R is a residual group of an aliphatic carboxylic acid having 10 to 20 carbon atoms. The agent for skin external use also comprises 1,2-hexanediol contained in an amount of not less than 0.05% by mass and less than 12% by mass. Support for claim 19 can be found, for example, at pages 13 and 14 of the present specification. Support for claim 20 is found in the Examples.

No new matter is added. Upon entry of the Amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1, 3-7, 10, 13-14, 17 and 19 will be pending.

Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner enter and consider the previously submitted Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 filed on February 1, 2010.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

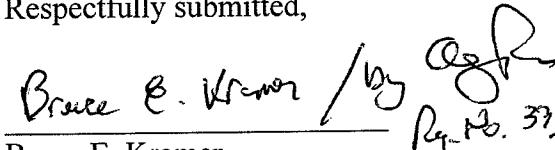
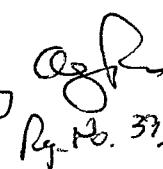
If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)  
U.S. Application No.: 10/575,624

Attorney Docket No.: Q78079

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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